
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 29-2021

Subject: Niagara 2051 Project – Water & Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update – Public Information Center Number 1

Date: April 14, 2021

To: Planning & Economic Development Committee

From: Phill Lambert, P. Eng, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering

The purpose of this memo is to provide Committee & Council with an overview of the Niagara 2051 project and introduce the Notice of Commencement/Public Information Centre #1 for the Region's 2021 Water & Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update to be available virtually on April 21, 2021. A link to the project page will be sent to Council once the project page and contents are available.

The Provincial Growth Plan forecasts an additional 214,000 people and 81,000 jobs from 2016 to 2051. With Niagara growing to 674,000 people by 2051, the alignment of growth, infrastructure and finance is crucial for proactively managing growth.

Niagara 2051 represents a coordinated approach of a number corporate projects including:

- Development Charges (DC) Background Study and By-Law
- Water & Wastewater (W&WW) Master Servicing Plan (MSP) Update
- Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Refresh
- Region Official Plan – 2051 Population & Employment Forecasts

Establishing Niagara 2051 as the overarching umbrella for the coordination of these projects is very important to ensure greater consistencies of the various project components and allows for greater public engagement. All of these studies are linked with the anticipated growth out to 2051 and required capital projects to support Niagara achieving its potential, which is then incorporated into the Development Charges Background Study. A cross-departmental team made up of the project leads meet on a regular basis to ensure integration of these projects, which includes staff from Corporate

Services, Planning & Development Services, Transportation, Water and Wastewater, Asset Management, and Communications. Staff is committed to providing Committee and Council with updates on the overall project subcomponents as milestones are reached. The following provides a brief update on these individual projects.

Development Charge Background Study & By-law

- Project consulting was awarded to Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson) in late 2020.
- Watson was lead consultant on 2017 DC background study and by-law and has significant experience in completing projects of a similar size and scope with other municipalities.
- Utilize TMP Refresher, W&WW MSP, and Growth inputs to produce DC Background Study
- Ensures that Growth pays for Growth
- First Regional Development Charge Policy Task Force (RDCPTF) meeting occurred March 25, 2021.
- Current Development Charges By-Law expires August 31, 2022

W&WW Master Servicing Plan Update

- Project consulting was awarded to GM BluePlan Engineering (GMBP) – engineering agreement signed on January 14, 2021.
- GMBP has previously lead the Regional 2016 W&WW MSP, numerous Area Municipality studies and has significant knowledge of both Regional and Municipal water distribution and wastewater collection systems including individual facilities.
- An initial kick-off meeting between GMBP and Regional staff was held on January 26, 2021.
- Key deliverable to provide W&WW capital infrastructure projects to support growth out to 2051.
- Tight timeframe to provide capital project list for DC Background Study by end of 2021.
- Multiple meetings and touch points planned with Local Municipal Partners throughout project.
- Notice of Commencement/Public Information Centre #1 to be virtually available on April 21, 2021 on project website.

Transportation Master Plan Refresh

- Request for proposal for consulting services to update Niagara Region's EMME Travel Demand Model (Activity Based) and to provide professional and technical services related to the preparation of a Transportation and Transit Background component for the 2022 Development Charges Study was issued in Q1 2021.
- The kick-off meeting for this consulting assignment is expected Q2 2021.
- Transportation will coordinate information with Watson and GMBP, and internal stakeholders including Planning and Development, Water & Wastewater Services and Communications.
- Projects identified in the approved Transportation Master Plan will undergo a DC refresh based on revised capital costs to construct. New strategic projects will also be identified and included.

Region Official Plan

As previously noted, the Region must plan to the forecasted growth set out in the Growth Plan: a minimum increase of 214,000 people and 81,000 jobs from 2016 to 2051.

All decisions of Council must conform to the Growth Plan. Thus, the coordination of growth planning through the Official Plan, the Development Charges, W&WW MSP and TMP is critical.

Planning staff are working to provide Council with a consolidated draft of the Niagara Official Plan (NOP) for adoption for the end of 2021. An important part of this process is the presentation of a Joint Consolidated report to Planning and Economic Development Committee in May 2021. That Report will provide an update on all policy sections of the NOP, and draft policies on many key sections for the NOP, including those relating to forecasted growth.

The Joint Consolidated report will provide draft growth allocations, intensification rates and greenfield density targets for the local municipalities. This growth management information will be identified in policy for discussion and comment through the summer.

A key component of growth management is the land needs assessment, which identifies the amount of land for each local municipality, amongst other things. The land needs assessment has been carefully integrated with the assessment of options for a Natural Environment System (NES) as the NES will identify in part where growth

cannot occur. The draft land needs assessment identifies which municipalities need more land for community (residential) or employment purposes.

The above growth management components will be discussed at local Council workshops and a Regional Council workshop prior to PEDC considering the Joint Consolidated report in May 2021.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Phill Lambert, P. Eng.
Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering